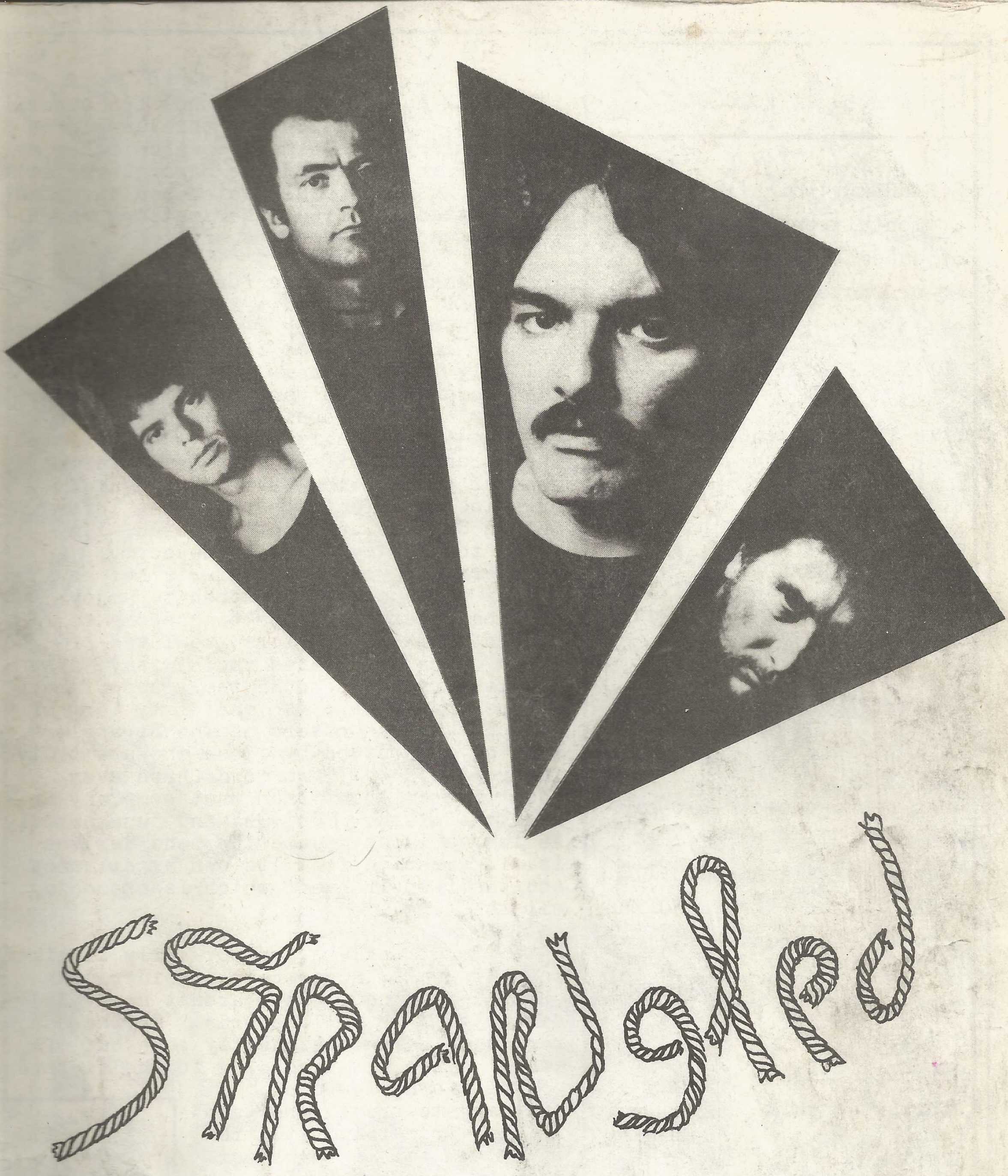
STRAUGHES

NUMBER 1 VOLUME 2

STRANGLED, which is a bi-monthly enthuzine is produced by S.I.S., co-ordinated and compiled by:

SUZANNE PRIOR

with the assistance of:

J.J. BURNEL
HUGH CORNWELL
DAVE GREENFIELD
JET BLACK
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ALAN EDWARDS
AND YOU.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

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s.a.e.'s will be much appreciated.

MARCH 1980 30p

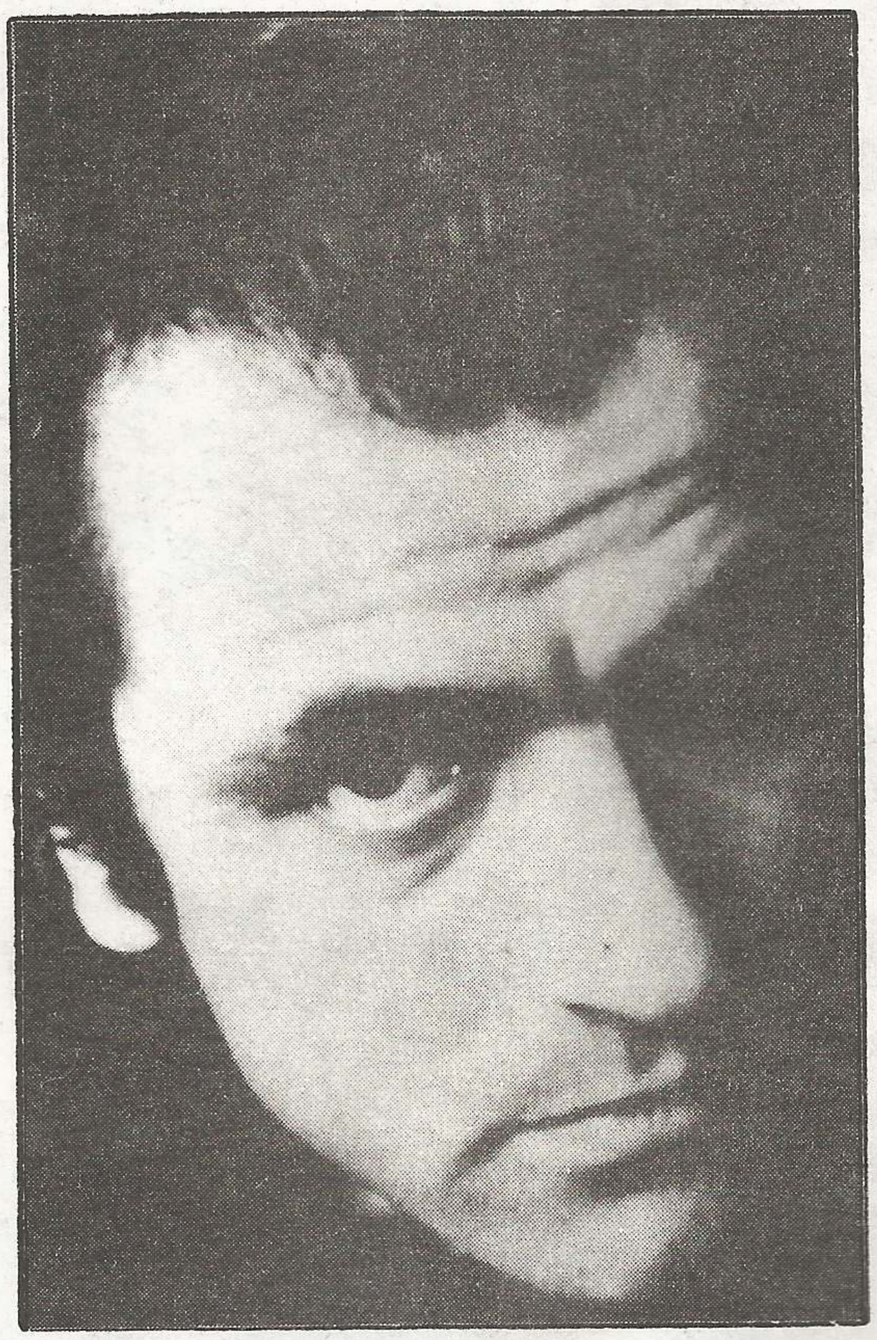
STRANGLED has not appeared now for about 7 months. The reason for this unwelcome gulf is Tony Moon's move towards other areas of interest and The Stranglers' self imposed heavy schedule which has diverted their attention from other matters which involve enormous amounts of time.

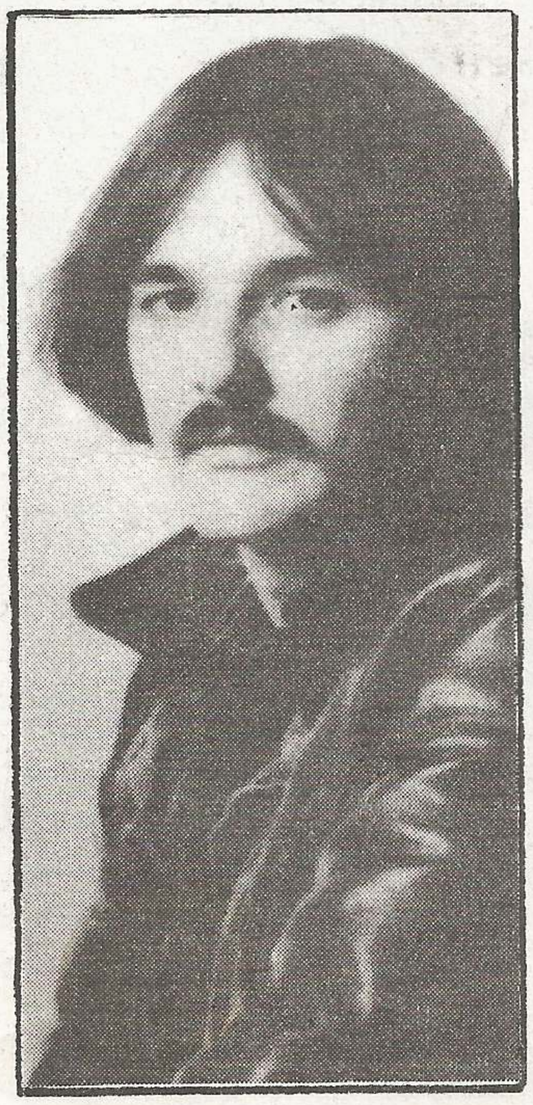
Mooney was responsible for launching STRANGLED some - was it 2 years ago ? - with his piece on the T shirt that stopped a gig. It should not be considered unlikely that the near future will see the emergence of a band called, perhaps, 'Mooney and the Loonies' ? Anyway the present situation is that I have accepted The Stranglers offer to co-ordinate the regular publication of STRANGLED and organise an effective Stranglers Information Service . In other words, I'm going to work my balls off - sorry, knickers for you lot. This is not so bad as it sounds as I happen to enjoy the absurd extremes the band seems to attract. The Stranglers are loved or hated which eliminates those wishy washy middle persons who bore the arse off me. I hope that before the end of my term of office the true nature of The Stranglers will be understood by those who are truly interested. Only two words have ever been written about them that come anywhere near the truth. "Unique" and "unashamedly". As far as I can deduce the band derives its inspiration from its own experiences and their environment which is expanding all the time.

That The Stranglers are popularly disliked has, it seems, never been considered an obstacle by them. They aren't motivated by bullshit to sell records. On the contrary they have consistently gone out of their way to act according to the dictates of their own viewpoint, contrary to press reports. Arising from this situation I feel that I am in a position to convey to those interested the motives behind the actions which again is contrary to press reports. Please, therefore, feel free to put your blockbusting questions to the boys and I will get the answers, which will not be censored by the music press establishment.

Suze.

The Stranglers marvel at Japanese medieval architecture. Above; work by the astonishingly dramatic Japanese artist Kinzo Hirose...(1812 - 1876)





1979 DIARY

January
Thr Stranglers spent most of this month rehearsing and getting some new songs to-gether.

February
The band departed for Tokyo on the 5th stopping at Moscow (the worlds most depressing major airport) for refuelling. Three days rehearsals in Tokyo where the boys discovered that the Japanese customs had dismantled most of Dave's keyboard equipment causing headaches for sound boss Sheds and the crew. Flight to Fukuoka in the south of Japan for the first gig. With keyboard problems continuing to plague an otherwise smooth operation. With the opening gig looking like being blown out the crew finally solved the problems only two minutes before opening time. On to Osaka, Kyoto & Nagoya by which time the boys were really getting into Japanese food. Three gigs in Tokyo and on to Australia. The boys arrived in Sydney on the 25th to meet a hostile Aussie press waiting to do battle.

March
After the tenth round the hostile press realised they were defeated. The band got back to London on the 21st.

April
April saw J.J. touring with the Euroband, a much misunderstood personal ambition of his. The purpose of the adventure being to make a statement about Europe whilst dissipating some excess energy. Meanwhile Hugh worked on his fiendish epic 'Nosferatu' while dave solved two hundred thousand puzzles and Jet worked out how to solve all the problems of the world. At this time the press was rife with speculation that The Stranglers had broken up. As usual, they were wrong.

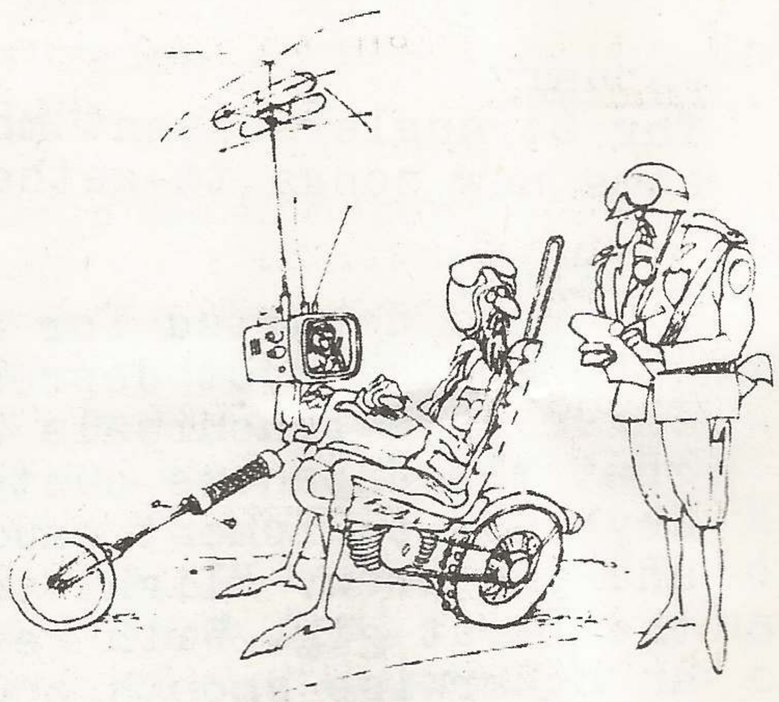
May
and the band were rehearsing again, getting to-gether what was to become The Raven. On the 26th they headed North to play the Loch Lomond gig.

June
Rehearsals continued until the 13th when the band flew to Paris to start recording The Raven. They returned on the 28th with a can full of Raven.

July
Most of this month was spent mixing The Raven in London.

August
Duchess released, Stranglers support The Who at Wembley, more rehearsals.

September
A few days here for sleeping and being lazy. It was about this time that J.J. decided to ride his bike to France. His bike broke down and a van had to be sent to the rescue in order to get him back for the charity cricket match at Paddington Recreation Ground. The Meninblack vs. The Media. The M.I.B. had a laugh and a half and The Media thought they were playing for the ashes. The Raven is released, the U.K. tour begins.



October
Non-stop tour of U.K.

November
Non-stop tour of Holland, Belgium, France and Germany.

December
Seven date tour of Japan.

I asked Hugh to explain his rumoured association with a Japanese band called S-Ken. He gave me the following details: (Suze) ...

I first came into contact with S-Ken during our first visit to Japan in February 1979. J.J. had already made plans to record Lizard and we both went to see them play at the 'Loftet', virtually the only venue where new bands can play in Tokyo. S-Ken played after Lizard and I was immediately interested. I had the opportunity to meet Tadashi Tanaka, the group's singer-guitarist and song writer, when I returned to Tokyo in August '79. We discussed the possibility of working together on the first recording group's demo tape material to Europe.

Last December I was able to meet the rest of the group who are:

Mitsuwa	Keyboards. B. Vocals
Kastutoshi Eguchi	Bass. B. Vocals
Nezumi	Drums

I've just heard that they have secured a recording contract with Billbox, a new domestic label in Japan and it looks as though I'll be able to record the band in Tokyo within the next few months, if I can successfully sort out my appeal hearing.

Hugh...Jan 1980

THE STRANGLERS DISCOGRAPHY

As the most frequent question received at our office relates to the Stranglers discography, it seems a good idea to include the following details as a permanent feature in STRANGLED.

TITLE	CAT.No.	LABEL	RELEASED
ALBUMS			
Rattus Norvegicus	UAG 30045	U.A.	1977
No More Heroes	UAG 30200	U.A.	1977
Black and White	UAK 30222	U.A.	1978
Live X-Cert	UAG 30224	U.A.	1979
The Raven	UAG 30262	U.A.	1979
SINGLES			
Grip - London Lady	UP 36211	U.A.	1977
Peaches - Go Buddy Go	UP 36248	U.A.	1977
Something Better Change - Straighten Out	UP 36277	U.A.	1977
No More Heroes - In the Shadows	UP 36300	U.A.	1977
5 Minutes - Rok It To the Moon	UP 36350	U.A.	1978
Nice 'n' Sleazy - Shut Up	UP 36379	U.A.	1978
Walk on By - Old Codger - Tank	UP 36429	U.A.	1978
Duchess - Fools Rush Out	BP 308	U.A.	1979
Nuclear Device - Yellowcake UF 6	BP 318	U.A.	1979
Bear Cage - Shah Shah a Go Go	BP 344	U.A.	1980
E.P.			
Don't Bring Harry - Wired) Crabs - In the Shadows)	STR 1	U.A.	1979
FREE SINGLES			
Choosey Susie - Peasant In the Big Shitty (Issued free with Rattus album)	FREE 3	U.A.	1977
Walk on By - Tits - Mean to Me (Issued free with B & W album)	FREE 9	U.A.	1978
SOLO ALBUM J.J. BURNEL			
Euroman Cometh	UAG 30214	U.A.	1979
SOLO SINGLE J.J. BURNEL			
Freddie Laker - Ozymandias	UP 36500	U.A.	1979
SOLO ALBUM H. CORNWELL			
Nosferatu	UAG 30251	U.A.	1979
SOLO SINGLE H. CORNWELL			
White Room - Losers in a Lost Land	BP 320	U.A.	1979

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Overseas readers should note that the above are British releases and may not necessarily be on general release outside Britain. However, imported copies are available in most major western cities from specialist record shops.

WHAT THEY SAID

" The Stranglers specialise in sub-Doors material. Their promo poster campaign includes a piccy of a Boston Strangler victim lying in a pool of blood. Our man in the blue bus reckons this makes them a bunch of fnurgs (unlike the Doors) "
..... N.M.E. 27.3.76.

" They're nevertheless an awe-inspiring phenomenon once they're in full flight - genuine acid punk rockers "
..... Time Out 2.4.76.

" They show a noticeably small amount of evidence to the effect that they have any talent worth the name and they are also the best thing to emerge from near Guildford since The Troggs. "
..... Sounds 10.4.76.

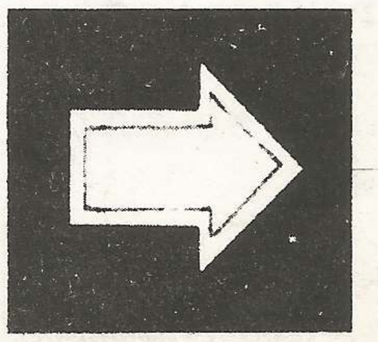
" The Stranglers have the right idea and are struggling to find the technical skills necessary for the expressing of that idea, whereas Yes have no idea at all yet have awesome personal abilities and vast technical resources at their disposal for bringing this intellectual vacuum to the waiting millions "
..... The John Peel Column.

" The only sense in which The Stranglers could be considered new wave is that no one has had the gall to palm off this rubbish before "
..... Melody Maker reviewing "Rattus" 23.4.77.

" An album which confirms they have little or nothing to offer "
..... Melody Maker 23.4.77.

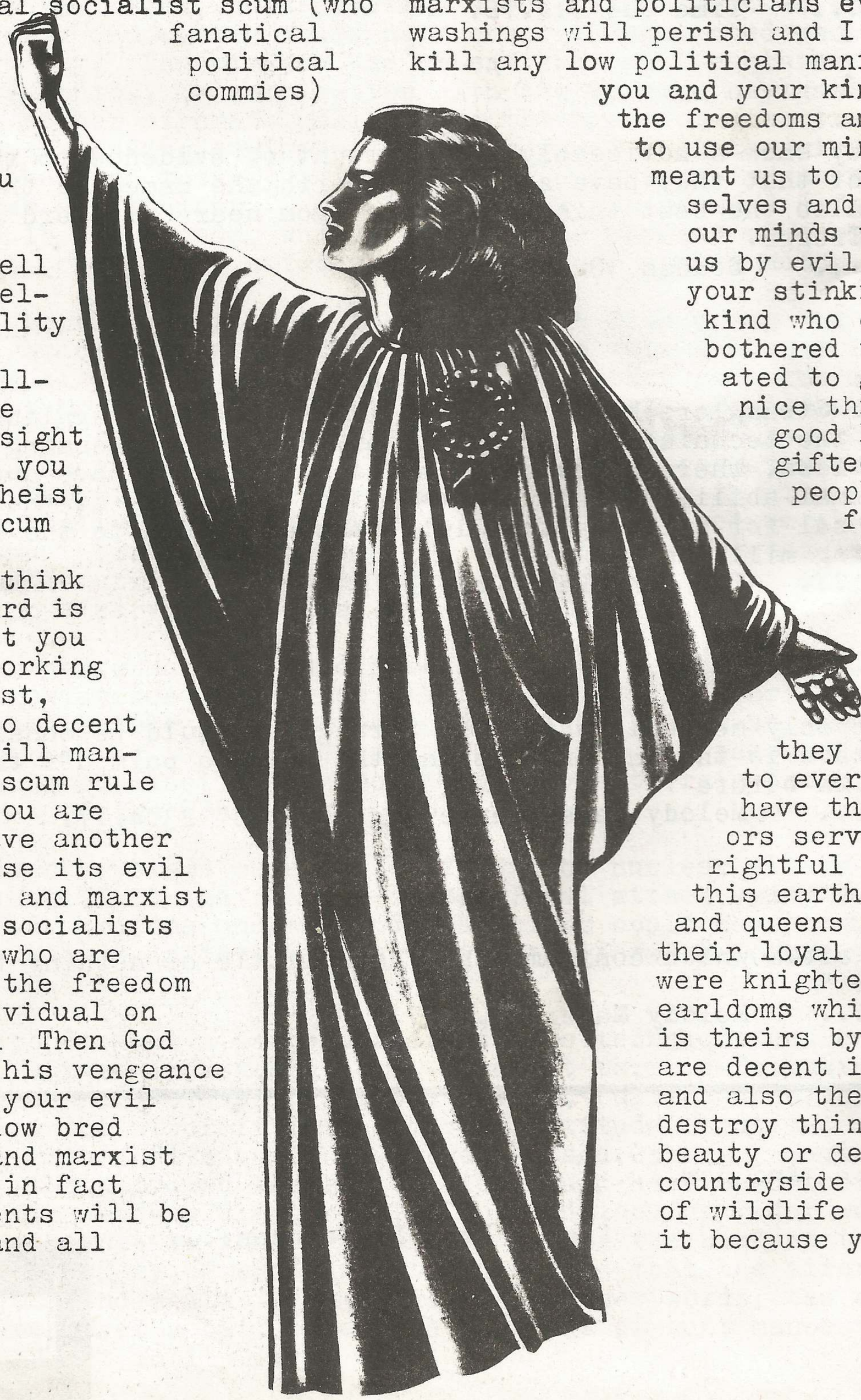
And now....

from a Mrs. D. Johnson....

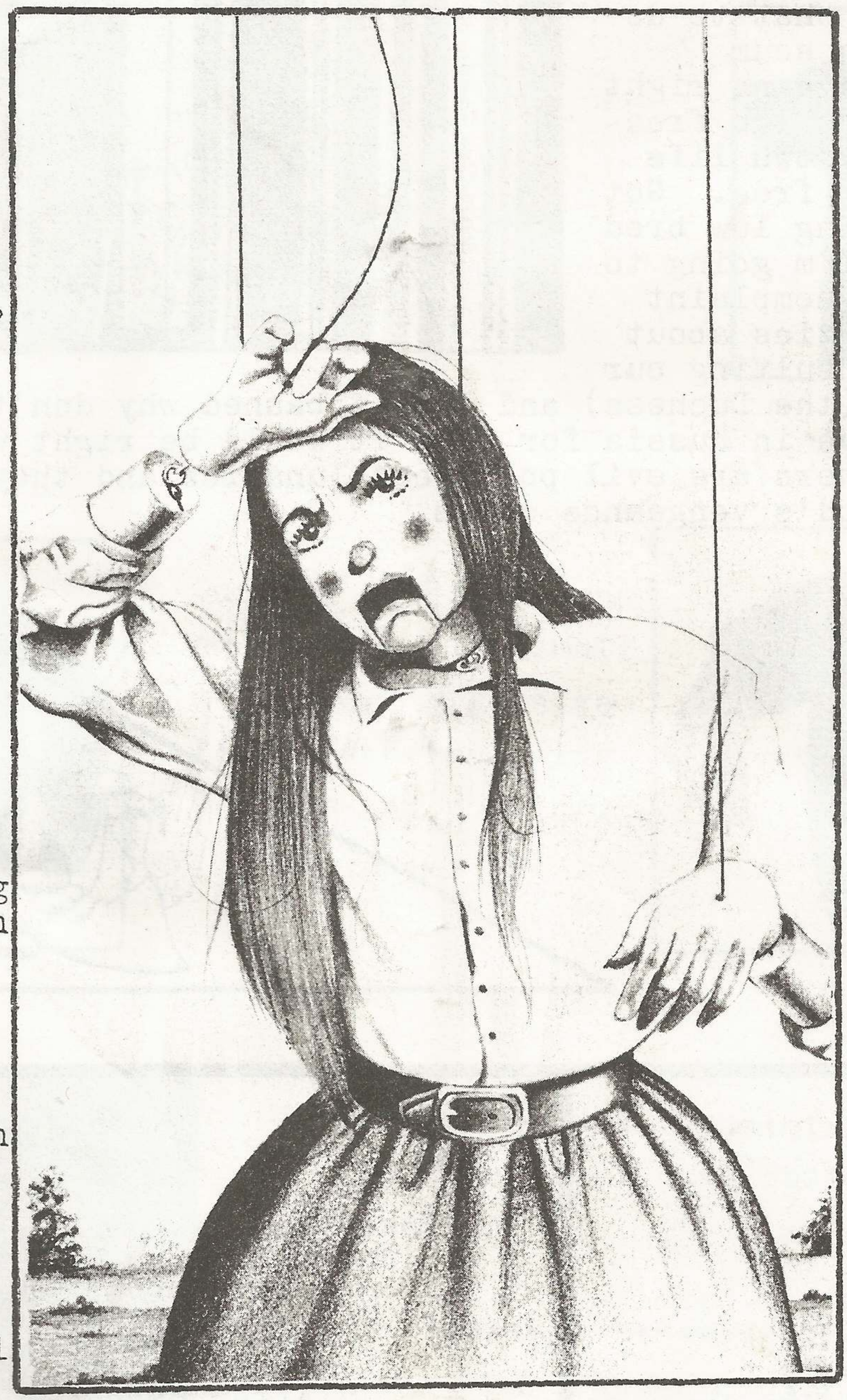


To the Stranglers, Pop Group.

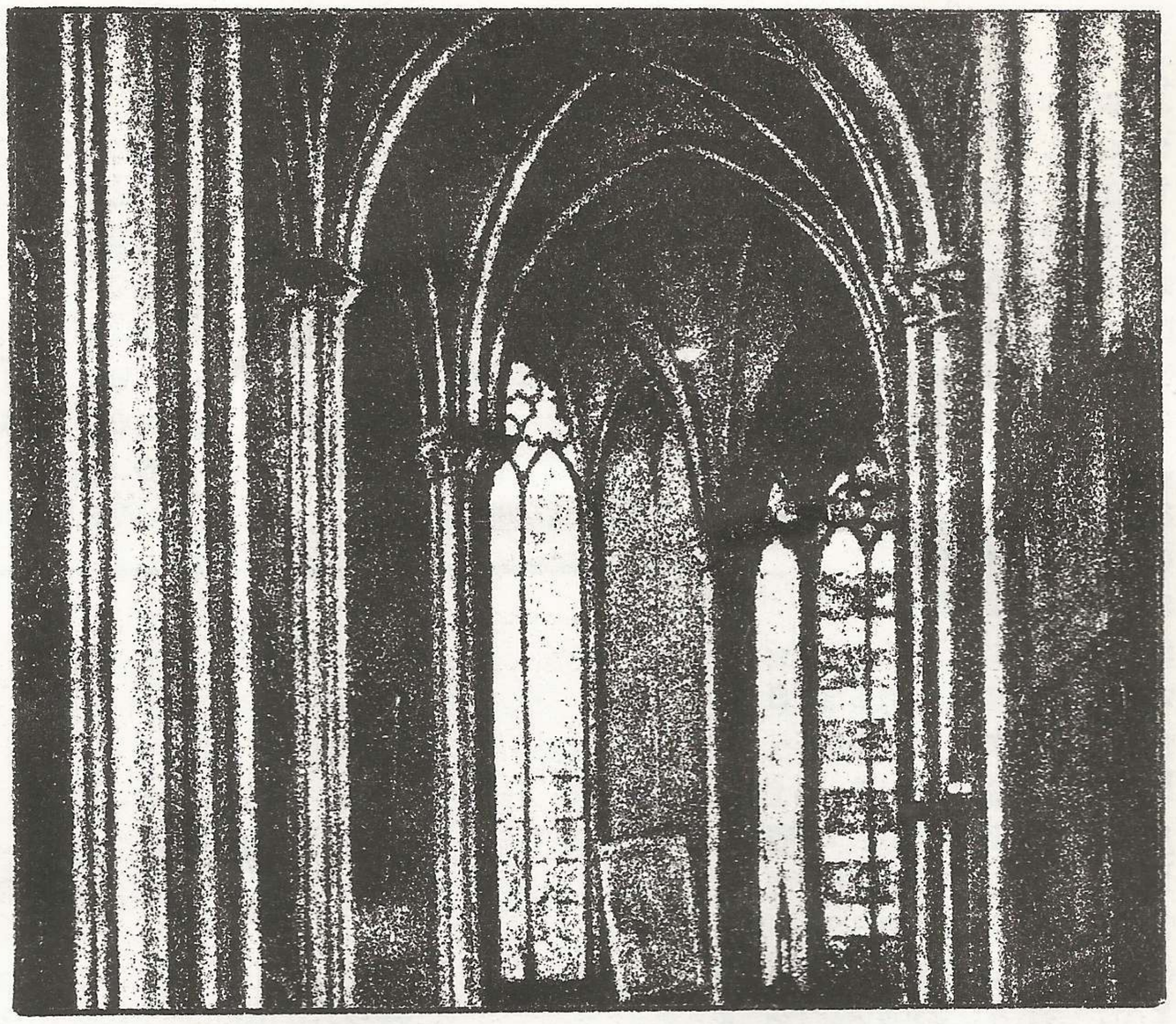
To me and others you are nothing more than low bred, coarse, below average so called working class atheist destroys of God's beautiful earth and of everything beautiful. You better stop insulting the rightful leaders our gracious monarchy. They are God's own chosen leaders and can prove it in the Bible. Not your low bred common as muck red fanatical socialist scum (who too are fanatical political commies) evil madmen all and nearly marxist. I can tell you that our decent Christian well brought intelligent nobility and other gifted intelligent people are a damn sight better than you and your atheist perverted scum will be.
And if you think the good Lord is going to let you so called working class atheist, perverted no decent morals and ill mannered evil scum rule the world you are going to have another think because its evil politicians and marxist madmen and socialists and others who are destroying the freedom of the individual on God's earth Then God will wreck his vengeance on you and your evil political low bred socialist and marxist madmen and in fact all Goverments will be destroyed and all politicians of every shade will perish besides all these common as muck evil headshrinkers. who are no more than (simple) a word which means lunatic working class beauty hating destroyers of God's earth We are not put on this earth you low bred foul mouthed dirty mannered socialist pigs to become work slaves and no one like you is going to tell me to to so because you and your kind are destroying God's beautiful earth at such a rate that soon all of you and all marxists and politicians evil brainwashings will perish and I'm ready to kill any low political maniacs like you and your kind to save the freedoms and freedom to use our minds as God meant us to for ourselves and not to have our minds taken from us by evil cant help your stinking low bred kind who cant be bothered to get educated to get all the nice things the good Lord and gifted and decent people have done for you.
Stop insulting our noble decent well brought aristocracy they have a right to everything they have their ancestors served gods rightful leaders on this earth the kings and queens and for their loyal services were knighted and given earldoms which by God is theirs by right they are decent intelligent and also theyd not destroy things of beauty or destroy countryside and habitat of wildlife (they save it because you rotten



low bred bastards God gave us beautiful things and the love of this beautiful earth and I can tell you this the Lord's vengeance will soon have all political maniacs like you commie or left wing socialist destroyers of God's earth and his vengeance will come so quickly to those and thousands and millions like you I mean commies and socialist and all evil brain-washing maniacs will die stick hard work up your common low bred stinking working class destroying ( )? You and your kind are not going to make slaves of me or others who believe in all freedomsand the freedom to be different get this if you and your kind want to murdering decent people who believe in freedom like they are killing orhave killed in those evil communist and socialist countries then God's justice will be swift on you and all marxist and socialist and liberal and all will perish because God will come to our aid he will save all patriotic and traditional and true Christians people who believe in everything beautiful and in all freedoms so get ready to die you low bred common socialist evil destroyers



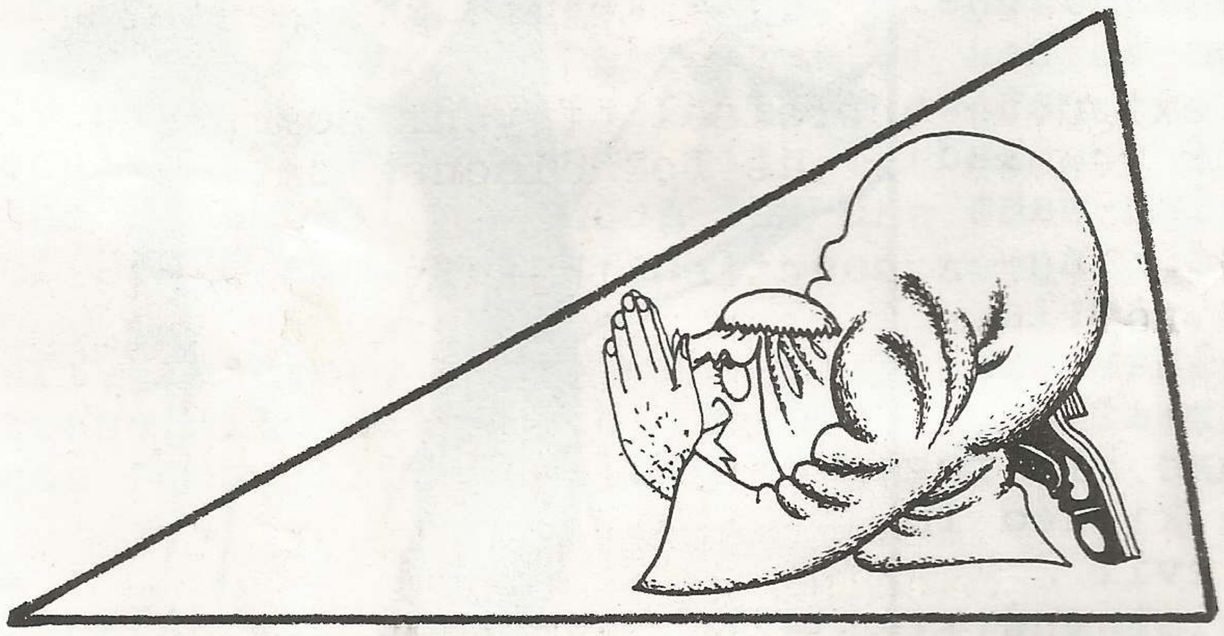
Im patriotic and proud of it I'm proud to have honour and virtue and will with God's help if scum like you try to take away and freedoms to make people work slaves I will be ready to kill enemies of freedom and beauty like you. Just because you have got low bred lunatic brains God I pray for help to rid the world of all political Governments who have no legal rights at all our monarchies are God's chosen keepers on this earth and have been until the early seventeenth century when lunatic politicians came on the scene and stole the right leadership from God's chosen keepers so get this politicians and all lunatics marxists and socialists will perish and the if our monarchies and Queens are murdered by evil low bred scum like yourselves then God above will have his vengeance broughte nearer and you and your atheist beauty hating kind and work mad lunatics who are destroying thisearth with a craze in your your heads for destroying and polluting the earth will die as scum like you were borne scum and ill mannered perverted and foul mouthed drop dead you red marxist or red socialist scum I shall never be a work slave of you and your ill bred kind. Its the likes of you and your kind who rape kill and cold bloodily murder and blow people to bits. You will die



and all yourlunatic socialist, marxist and these evil workers revolutionary evil maniacs will perish in devastation that will be put on this earth by God to rid the earth of these evil atheist maniacs like you. God won't have mercy on your evil atheist souls. Don't tell me what to do you socialists scum because you have no right and God gave me the freedom to have my own life as he meant it free. Got it you insulting low bred atheist scum I'm going to make a strong complaint to the authorities about your record insulting our noble famies (the Duchess) and get it banned why don't you and your kind go to live in Russia for good it would be right up your street. All brain washers are evil political lunatics and they to will perish when God's vengeance comes.

Mrs D Johnson

43 Sunnymead
West Green
Crawley
Sussex



Phew !!

What do you do with a letter like that ?

After considering two alternatives :

The Monty Python Archives
or
The Dustbin

Jet decided to take up the case .....

Dear Mrs Johnson 20th January 1980

My thanks to you for your long and stimulating undated letter. Whilst extrapolating your conjectural judgement of The Stranglers' standpoint, you have, perhaps unwittingly, disclosed a literary panache of intangible quality. Indeed your rhetorical elaboration has a uniqueness that could inspire a whole generation of literary scholars in much the same way that the memorable Scottish poet William McGonagall inspired his contemporaries.

An exiguous appraisal of your communication would seem to reveal four general areas for discussion.

(a) - Your assumption that The Stranglers as people fall within the following descriptive areas of intrinsic behavioural demeanour.

1. "Low bred"
2. "Below average so called working class"
3. "Atheist"
4. "Destroyers of God's beautiful earth"
5. "Common as muck"
6. "Red fanatical socialist scum"
7. "Nearly marxist"
8. "Atheist perverted scum"
9. "Working class atheist, perverted, no decent morals and ill mannered evil scum"
10. "Low bred foul mouthed, dirty mannered socialist pigs"
11. "Low political maniacs"
12. "Stinking low bred kind"
13. "Rotten low bred bastards"
14. "Low bred common socialist evil destroyers"
15. "Low bred lunatic brains"
16. "Atheist beauty hating kind"
17. "Red marxist or red socialist scum"

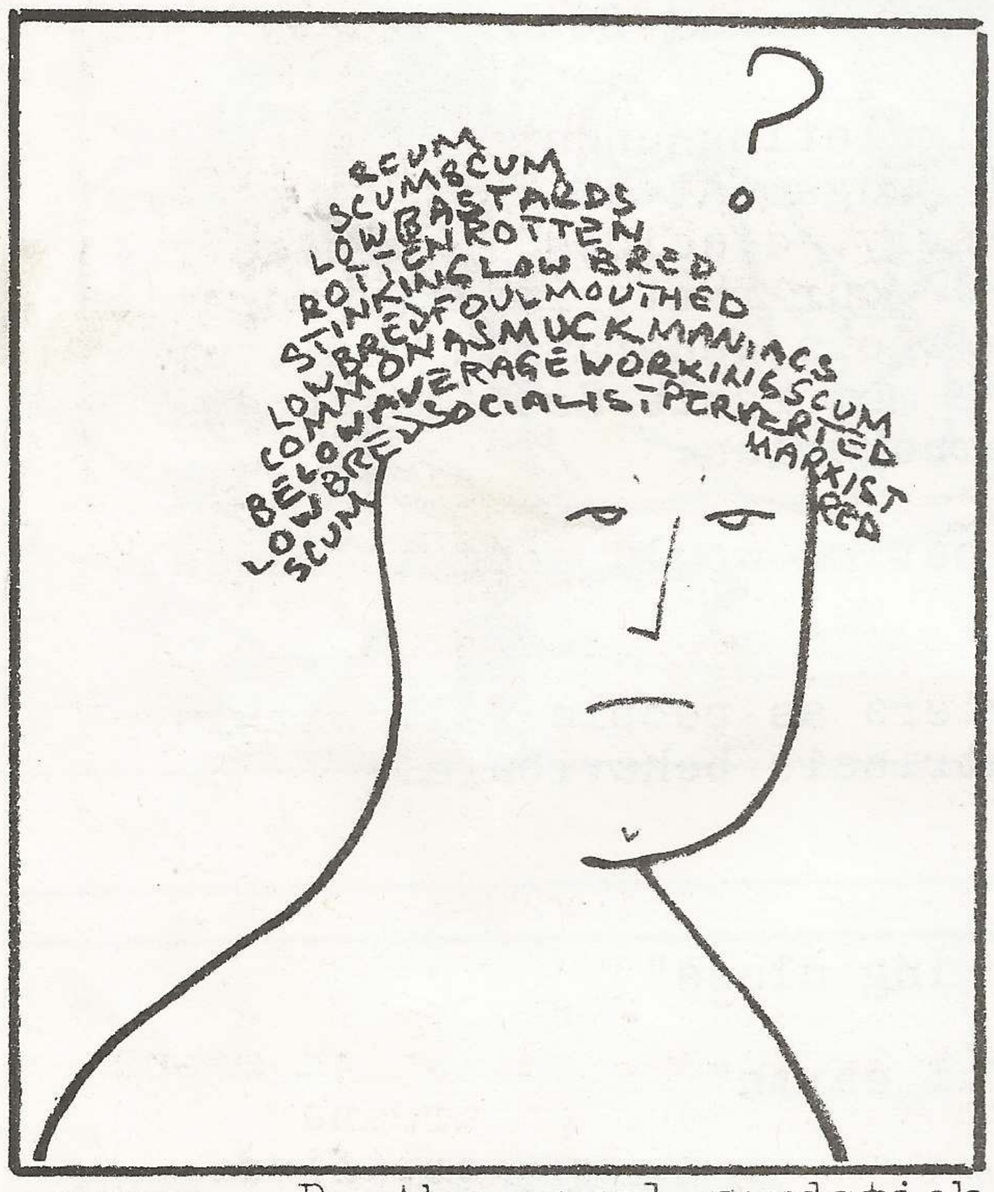
(b) - Your contention that The Stranglers have insulted the monarchy and that the Bible proves the monarchy to be God's own chosen leaders.

(c) - Your observation that it is the likes of The Stranglers

and their kind who rape. kill and cold-bloodedly murder and blow people to bits.

(d) - The implication in your letter that the pietistical citizen is innately more virtuous than the pyrrhonist.

I return now to (a) 1. "Low bred". This has been a rather difficult phrase to qualify. It does appear rather vague but my search for the true meaning has proved unexpectedly complicated. You see, if there is such a thing as a low bred person then it presupposes that there is such a thing as a high bred person. In my pursuit for an explanation I couldnt find a clearly recognisable indication that The Stranglers fit into the low or high bred category by popular opinion. Some people say that low bred means you have poor parents and high bred rich parents. Our parents have experienced widely varying degrees of poverty and affluence so that doesnt apply.



Some say low bred means illiterate parents and high bred intellectuals. Our parents emerged from differing levels of intellect and illiteracy so that also doesnt apply. Again some consider low bred is of non royal origin and high bred related directly to the monarchy. Although a hereditary connection with a monarch could be demonstrated within The Stranglers, it would be misguided to assume that The Stranglers as a whole were of royal stock.

Since history demonstrates quite clearly that kings and queens, not to mention lower ranking royals, can boast, by normal terms of reference, lunatics, murderers, atheists, homosexuals, fanatics, artists, eccentrics, intellectuals, academics, crusaders and dictators, we have to deduce that they are no different from anyone else anyway. By the royal yardstick then The Stranglers are clearly not high or low bred.

By a purely literal interpretation of the contention that The-Stranglers are low bred, perhaps it means that they are the result of a low altitude fecundation? Well, none of The Stranglers' parents were trapeze artists, airline personnel, mountaineers, astronaut persons or members of the famous five mile high club. The fact that The Stranglers were conceived at a low terrestial altitude would seem to be the key to the puzzling phrase "low bred". In other words there is only one kind of breeding; that which causes people to be born, making The Stranglers neither inferior nor superior but quite ordinary human beings. Yes, I would have to agree with you.

To move on to your variation as in (a) 10. I would refute that The Stranglers are socialist and invite you to substantiate this, which leaves "foul mouthed dirty mannered pigs". That The Stranglers are not in fact pigs can easily be determined by study of any of the many photographs available. If you refer to pig-like behaviour, then it is

true that The Stranglers and pigs do have a few habits in common and so also does every other human being which again makes us quite ordinary humans. Regarding "foul mouthed". we are fanatical about oral hygiene and should you wish to pursue this matter further a dental inspection could be arranged. "Dirty mannered" is I suspect another of those "low bred" type phrases requiring the establishment of what constitutes dirty or clean manners. I suspect also that we would arrive at the conclusion again that The Stranglers are ordinary humans.

"Stinking" as in (a) 12 is no more evident than is roughly average throughout the human race. "Rotten" as in (a) 13 implies a severe degree of ill health and unfitness. The Stranglers are well known for their physical activity and sporting endeavour which together with hard work and an active mind ensures the constriction of any suggestion of rotteness. Bastardhood can be checked with the appropriate Registry and you will be amazed to find that you are in error. With (a) 14 we are in agreement. We would favour destroying common socialist evil by re-education. "Lunatic brains" as in (a) 15 requires some elucidation. What is a lunatic brain?

The "scum" variations:-

(a) 6. I take "red" to mean communist. We are not communists. "Fanatical" only about oral hygiene. "Socialist" I have already dealt with and "scum" - another perplexing locutive diatribe ? Indubitably. After all, how can you call someone a scum, which means foam. "I say, did you know you are a foam ?" If you go around talking like that you must surely run the risk of being certified. No, you obviously mean something else. I engaged the assistance of my dictionary in order to solve this conundrum. It transpires that foam means - bubbles and bubbles means - transient and transient means - passing and passing means - through and through means - clear and clear means - pure, bright, without blemish. Oh, Mrs Johnson what an affectionate blandishment.

(a) 8. "Atheist" I will leave till later - and perverted ? A pervert is one who has abandoned the doctrine assumed to be true. Since there are innumerable doctrines in this world, everyone is a pervert according to someone else's doctrine. So again The Stranglers are ordinary human beings. I say, Mrs Johnson this is rather ingeminate of you.

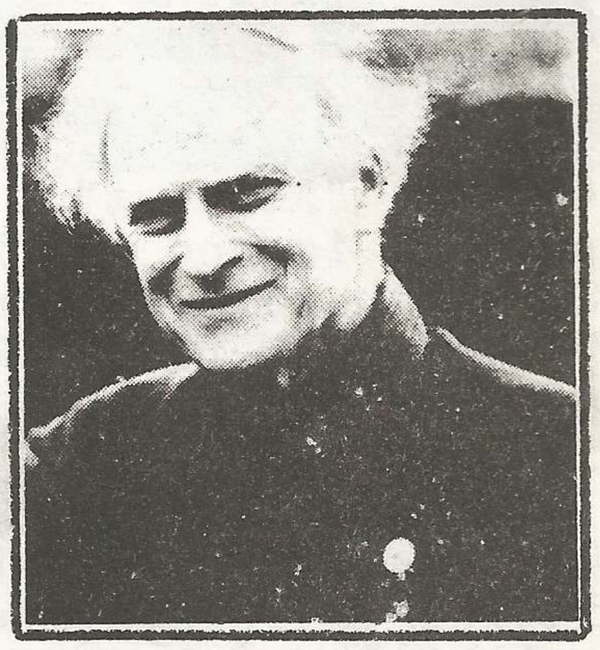
Of the remaining sub divisions of (a) I think the onus of substantiating "destroyers of God's beautiful earth", "marxist", "low political maniacs", "beauty hating kind", "red marxist or red socialist" as descriptive of The Stranglers is yours.

(a) 5 however, is surely a whimsical flight of fancy on your part. Axiomatically, anybody as prevalent as excrement must surely be God himself. Finally in the (a) sector we have "atheist" which I will deal with in (d).

The second area for discussion is (b). As far as I am aware the Stranglers have never insulted the monarchy. The inference in your letter that our song "Duchess" constitutes such an insult is erroneous since it is about a girl nicknamed the "Duchess". Whether or not the Bible proves the monarchy to be God's chosen leaders or not is worthy of scantly serious consideration. One might as well say that Playboy magazine proves that women are sex maniacs. You will doubtless argue that the Bible is the word of God but even the most devout of Christians would have to admit that the Bible was written by ordinary human beings - like The Stranglers.

On now to (c). Here you seem to be expressing the opinion that people like The Stranglers are murderers and rapists. In what way they are like The Stranglers is unclear. Do you mean they are musicians ? Are you in fact saying that musicians are murderers and rapists ? Are you saying for example: Yehudi Menuhin is a rapist ? If so the purpose of this extraordinary claim is obscure.

Finally (d). To imply that people who believe in God are in anyway superior than those who dont is ludicrous. Amongst God fearing people you can find the most appalling crimes against humanity. The same can be said of non believers. So the belief in God is no guarantee of super-eminence. Recent events in Iran give us a classic example of how a religious zealot can stoop as low as a human can. The murder of another human. Hell bent on establishing an Islamic theocracy, the hero of the revolution proceeded to murder hundreds of people in the name of God. As an atheist I consider cold blooded murder as fundamentally wrong. Of course the murderer never calls it murder. They call it execution or reprisal or defensive but by any name it is still murder. One who murders is surely assuming the authority of God. If there is indeed a God He should be left to do His own dirty work. Regretably, all too frequently humans assume divine prerogative to become criminals and the believers fall for it every time. Moreover, it can be demonstrated that these religious fanatics use the divine camouflage to achieve purely human objectives. Do you remember the way they created heresy to stop people getting at the truth. Heresy was the crime of being intelligent enough to realise that the faithful were being duped. Countless people were murdered in the name of God for trying to expose the lie.



One of the most famous was the Italian Dominican monk Giordano Bruno who suffered seven years in jail and was eventually burnt to death at the stake in 1600 for heresy. His crime ? - Bruno was an astronomer and began to develop his own theories about the nature of the universe which, together with his endorsement of the Copernican theory (Copernicus said that the sun was at the centre of the planetary system and not the earth as was clearly proved in the scriptures) outraged the religious hierarchy. Even Galileo, who was one of the first to use the then, newly invented telescope, was jailed after having observed with his own eyes that the earth indeed moved around the sun and not the reverse as was held to be true by the church. Of course today everyone knows that Copernicus, Bruno and Galileo were all correct and the church was wrong. The propensity for evil amongst religious adherents is all too apparent.

Have you never wondered why God fearing people are so violent ? To quote your own words "I'm ready to kill any low political maniacs like you" and "get ready to die you low bred common socialist evil destroyers" and "I will be ready to kill enemies of freedom and beauty like you". I suppose believing in a lie must be very frustrating since you must fight to maintain it, whereas the truth is so much easier because you dont have to invent more lies or pretend.

In conclusion, the reason why we dont go to live in Russia is because we dislike the Russian system and England is our home.

Yours sincerely

Jet Black
The Stranglers

Lizard are a five piece band from Tokyo comprising bass, drums, keyboards, guitar and vocalist.

In August 1979 they came to London to record their first album at Eden Studios. Although openly indebted to European predecessors, their music is concerned solely with Japan and Japanese attitudes to various events and facts abroad. They are a Japanese band.

If they have any frame of reference on any world they have studied outside of their own immediate world, it is Europe.

The odd English lyric and Germanic musical stylisation is never denied. It is too easy to criticise, analyse and bitch about a band's influences especially in its early stages or early recordings especially now when musical technology is truly international. Most synthesizers are made in Japan after all !

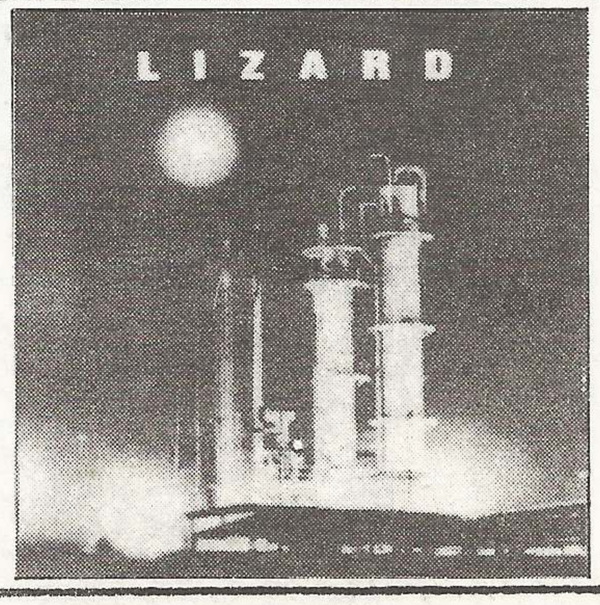
They played four gigs, all of which were in London: The Nashville, The Global Village on Mod Night, (the idea was that the Mods would love 'em or hate 'em. They went one better and did'nt turn up !) The Venue and Music Machine. The LP is out now on King Records (JPN) and as yet there are no plans for release in Europe but they will be back.

This has been an advertisement for

LIZARD

新世代の幕開けを告げる
噂のグループ、リザード登場!!

「日本で初のニュー・ウェイヴ・レコード」と英国でも絶賛を博した話題のリザード!!
このデビュー・アルバム"リザード"のプロデュースを買って出たJ.J.バーネル(ストラングラーズ)も彼らのパワーとセンスにノック・アウト……



★デビュー・アルバム!! LIZARD
リザード
WINDMILL

ニュー・キッズ・イン・ザ・シティ／プラスティックの夢／ラジオ・コントロールド・ライフ／ガイアナ／記憶～エイシャ／T.V.マジック／マーケット・リサーチ／そのスウィッチに触れないで／モダン・ビート／ラヴ・ソング／王国
●GP・766／カセットAOF・5140／各￥2,500
※このレコードお買い上げの方、初回のみに限り、リザードのB2ポスターをプレゼント!!

HAGAKURE

Without explaining Ice the song in which we used the word Hagakure, I would like to take this opportunity to explain what is obviously an obscure term for many in our part of the world. It is a Japanese word which is nowadays hardly ever used since the subject which it evokes is regarded by post-war Japanese as taboo. Hagakure literally means "hidden beneath the leaves" and also "falling leaves". It was also the title of a book written by a Samurai turned hermit priest in the 17th century who was called Jocho Yamamoto. The book dealt with the philosophical and behavioural aspects of being a Samurai. Its most famous line "I found that the way of the Samurai is death" became the principle by which a Samurai lived his life. The beauty of every moment of living, every raindrop and sunset was to be enjoyed and reflected upon. How much we take so many of life's beauty and nature's entertainment for granted.

Hagakure was virtually a secret book which only a few Daimyo (feudal Samurai lord) and their respective houses possessed, presumably because it was the best formulation of the Samurai ethic. Hagakure, the way of the Samurai, became known to the public at large in the mid-nineteenth century with the restoration of the Meiji (Imperial) dynasty. It was around this time that Japan became open to the outside world, especially the Western way of war. During the second world war the book became a huge seller but during the allied occupation most copies were destroyed and the book reverted to its semi secret position.

Three years before Yukio Mishima, the great Japanese writer, poet, man-of-action, committed ritual suicide in 1970 at the Jietai headquarters, (Japan is not allowed an army as such but has a professional volunteer force known as the self-defence corps or - Jietai) Mishima wrote a book based on his contemporary interpretation of the original Hagakure. He put the Samurai bible into a modern context. What is remarkable is that much of the book's common sense and wisdom is international and transcends time or fashion.

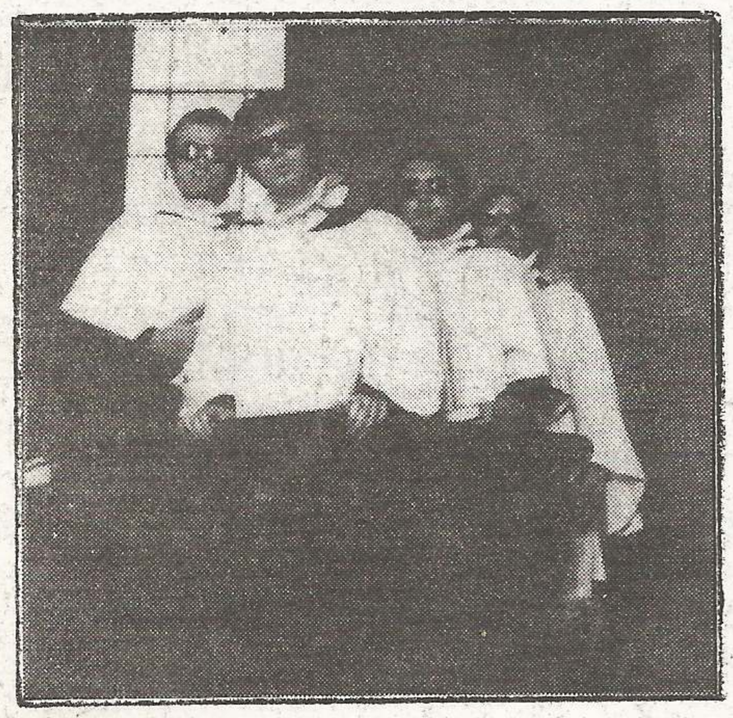
Why does our society, which bases so much on things which become obsolete in a short period of time, compromise itself so often; why does it scramble to grasp onto every last second of undignified life; why does

it deny the inevitable ? What is so frightening about death ?

"Even in death the Samurai should be the colour of cherry blossom". That is why, very often, the Samurai would carry rouge and perfume so that if suicide was called for they would not look too grotesque. That is also why, after they had disembowelled themselves with the traditional cut across the stomach and then upwards, that their second would behead them after five seconds so that the pain would not unduly disfigure the face nor would it disgrace them by making them cry out.

Pretty realistic under the circumstances.

J.J. Burnel



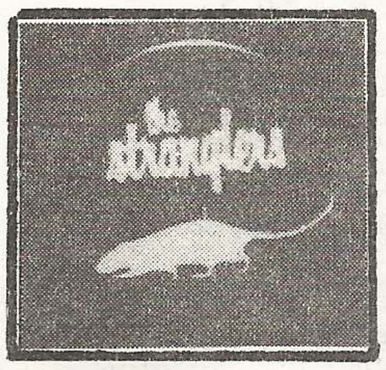
A scene from The Stranglers film "Duchess" which the BBC refused to show.

They described it as "distasteful".

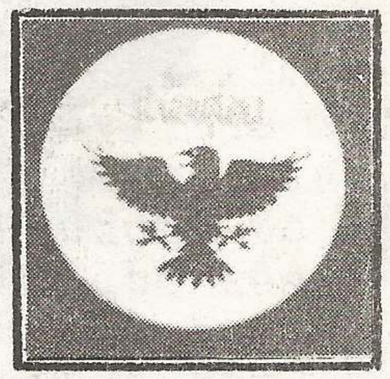
The church, however, didn't agree.

The vicar described it as "jolly good fun". He further remarked "they behaved much better than choirboys".

It would seem that the BBC are a higher authority than the church in ecclesiastical matters!



Rat or Raven badges ($1\frac{1}{4}$") 15p each. Send stamped addressed envelope with order.



Quality Rat or Raven tee-shirts in small, medium or large size £2.50 each including postage and packing.

Quality Rat or Raven sweat shirts in small medium or large size £4.70 each including postage and packing.

Stranglers wall poster (20" x 30") 98p each including postage and packing.

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All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to S.I.S. and sent with order to:

S.I.S.
Hibernia House
Winchester Walk
London
S.E.1.

TSR-2 MINISTRY REQUIREMENT OR.343

The aircraft had three basic roles: reconnaissance, high-explosive strike and nuclear strike. In the recce. role its equipment included photographic, radar with moving target indication, active linescan with in-flight transmission. In the H.E. role, it could carry bombs, rockets and air-to-surface guided missiles. In the nuclear strike role, air-burst and lay-down deliveries were possible.

With the following six features the TSR-2 was unique among all other aircraft: fully automatic flight control, navigation and attack systems, automatic terrain following low gust response, long structural fatigue life, high thrust-to-weight ratio, and self-contained minimum ground support.

With these unequalled features, the TSR-2 was able to operate 200 ft. above the ground at speeds of up to 800 knots. At medium altitude, 36,000 ft., speeds up to 1,290 knots were achieved and with planned development the aircraft could have been capable of Mach 2.5.

Without external fuel tanks the TSR-2 had a radius of action of 1,000 nautical miles, of which 100 n.m. could have been flown "flat out" and 200 n.m. at sea level, in and out of the target area, at just under the speed of sound. With two underwing tanks, the radius of action could have been increased to 1,500 n.m. and, for its initial deployment, a ferry range of 3,700 n.m. could have been flown with the aid of a third fuel tank, mounted inside the bomb bay. Without the use of external fuel tanks, a ferry range of 2,870 n.m. would have been possible.

The TSR-2 was a fast aircraft, in every sense. Even when armed with two guided missiles, which increased its weight to 120,000 lb. it could take to the air in 12 seconds from roll and climb to 50,000 ft. at 1,000 ft. per sec.

The complete TSR-2 weapons system was designed for mobility and flexibility in operation, reversing previous trends towards reliance on major base facilities. It could have been deployed rapidly throughout the world with nominal support and then have been ready for immediate operational use to an extent depending on the level of support.

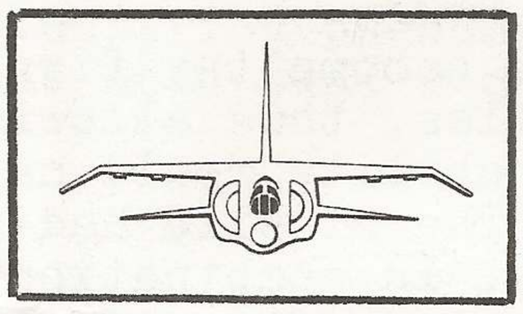
Built-in test facilities, pre-checked packages for armament, etc. and an auxiliary power plant for operating the electrics, cooling and other systems, gave the aircraft total independence from complex support equipment, as required by most other aircraft.

Air tapped from the engines was blown over the trailing-edge flaps to provide additional lift for take-off and landing. The specification called for a ground roll of not more than 1,800 ft. at sea level, under dispersed conditions. With use of full blown flaps, water injection and reheat, it was possible to lift the aircraft off the ground in even shorter distances than specified.

The TSR-2 was designed as a weapon of defence - with attack being the best means of achieving this. It could be likened to a vicious guard

dog - harmless until you cross over the line and then it would tear you to pieces. Without doubt, had the Russians, or anyone else come to that, ever crossed the line, a fleet of fifty TSR-2s armed with nuclear weapons could have completely destroyed half the civilised world in five hours.

In 1963 a British lay-down nuclear bomb was under development to be delivered to the R.A.F. in 1966, in time for the programmed delivery date of the TSR-2. The requirement specification for the bomb, OR.1177, stated the two versions should be made available, low-yield and high-yield. The TSR-2 could have carried four of the low-yield version and two of the high-yield.

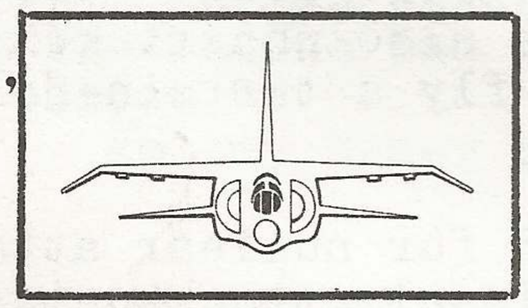


Had the aircraft ever entered service, it would probably have been armed with the high-yield bomb. The reason for this was to enable the mission radius to be increased by the addition of a 300 gal. fuel tank, carried in the bomb bay aft of the two bombs.

To deliver its deadly cargo, the TSR-2 would have employed an automatically programmed forward loft manoeuvre. The aircraft would scream over the trees at anything between 50 and 200 ft. above the objects in front of it and, at a distance of exactly 4 miles from the target, it would pull up at an angle of 30 deg. and then release the bomb - which would travel on to the target.

At the point of release the aircraft's height would have been 1,840 ft. but by the time the bomb reached the target the aircraft would have reached a safe height of 10,600 ft. This sort of delivery was only safe if the target was not one of strategic importance as ground defences would probably be limited. Even if the target were defended by a limited number of weapons, such as "Mauler" and PT.428, the bomb burst would probably have destroyed controlling radar before the missiles could reach the escaping aircraft.

However, for targets where ground defences were thick, a more cunning method would have been adopted. This was called the lay-down technique and would have confused even the most advanced defence systems. The aircraft would remain at 200 ft. above the ground throughout the attack, flying over the target in a straight line at almost the speed of sound. As it passed over the target the pilot, or automatic release system, would despatch the bomb, which would in turn release a small retarding parachute to allow the aircraft time to reach a safe escape distance.

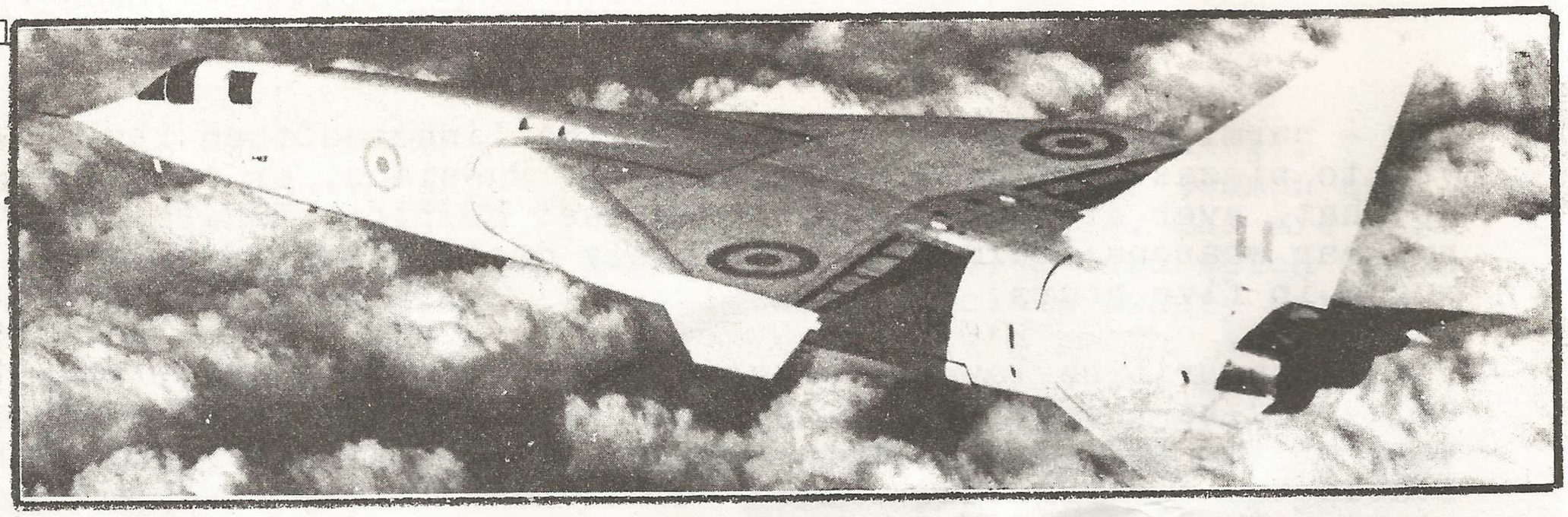


The majority of defence systems of the day would have been totally helpless against this type of attack and, to add to their confusion, the aircraft could have flown towards the target 50 ft. above the ground, only pulling up to 200 ft. a few seconds before releasing the bomb.

Lethal though it would have been with nuclear or conventional weapons, the TSR-2 could have become the ultimate weapon system when loaded with two stand-off missiles. The use of such a missile avoids the need for the aircraft to penetrate to the target itself, with the obvious risk of exposing the crew to the effects of previous nuclear explosions.

During the TSR-2s development the Blue Water missile was being developed

as a tactical surface-to-surface nuclear weapon for the Army. However, in August 1962 work was stopped, but the missile had been sufficiently developed to allow it to be fitted to the TSR-2 with only minor changes.



Blue Water would have become the first air-launched cruise missile. It had a range of 130 miles, thus allowing a surprise attack as the TSR-2s terrain-following capability would have ensured undetected penetration of enemy territory. The missile had an entirely self-contained inertial guidance system which, in combination with the precise navigation system fitted to the mother aircraft, eliminated the need for star tracking or other additional sensing equipment. This ensured that the missile was truly all-weather and totally immune to ECM (electronic counter-measures). The missile was 31 ft. long, 2 ft. in diameter and spanned 6 ft. It weighed 5,600 lb. at launch, which included the warhead of some 1,000 lb. Propulsion was provided by a two-stage solid-fuel rocket motor.

The only real problem in fitting the TSR-2 with Blue Water was ensuring that the navigation systems of the two machines were properly integrated. Several alternatives were tried and the final method gave the missile an accuracy of not more than 5,000 ft. from its target. In terms of thermonuclear warheads, this was a few inches from the bull's-eye. Blue Water trials were to be phased in with the TSR-2s flight programme and would have included the firing of twelve missiles. Bearing in mind that the TSR-2 was originally planned to enter R.A.F. service before the end of 1965, development trials of the missile were to be completed in mid 1966, service evaluation trials by early 1968 and Blue Water was expected to enter operational service in late 1968 or early 1969.

In time higher performances would have been expected and to this end plans were in existence to develop a ballistic missile for the TSR-2 which would have been capable of 500 miles range after launch and an accuracy of 2-3 miles from its target. Studies were also undertaken for an alternative air-launched missile, controlled to fly a terrain-following course similar to that of the TSR-2.

The TSR-2s attack systems were not designed for nuclear attack alone. Much thought went into the role of conventional attack using H.E. weapons. Attack with H.E. weapons under blind conditions could have been performed from medium altitude in level flight using the forward-looking radar for target sighting.

Under visual conditions a depressed sight line technique could have been used, which involved approaching the target at terrain-following altitude and a few miles short of the predicted target, pulling up by a bunt manoeuvre, bringing the aircraft into a diving attitude about 3-4 miles short of the target with a dive angle of between 6 and 25 deg. During the whole of the attack the computed target position would have been indicated to the pilot on his head-up display. The forward-looking radar would have measured the distance to the target and released the bomb at the correct instant. The accuracy of such an attack ensured that the aircraft would not have to go round again to make sure. In other words, the aircraft could have flown over a battlefield in a series of bunt manoeuvres destroying every object in its way.

STRANGLERS INFORMATION SERVICE

S.I.S. is a service designed to obtain answers to questions and correspondence sent to The Stranglers and to assist people wherever possible in acquiring information, records, pics, and other paraphernalia as is requested from time to time.

Although Hugh, J.J., Dave and Jet continue to answer many letters personally, it has become a physical impossibility for them to continue answering them all. STRANGLED will continue to reflect the views, opinions, subjects of interest and future plans of the band, who will be the main contributors.

In future issues readers' letters, which are considered of general interest, will be published and we are especially interested in publishing letters and articles rejected by the music press.

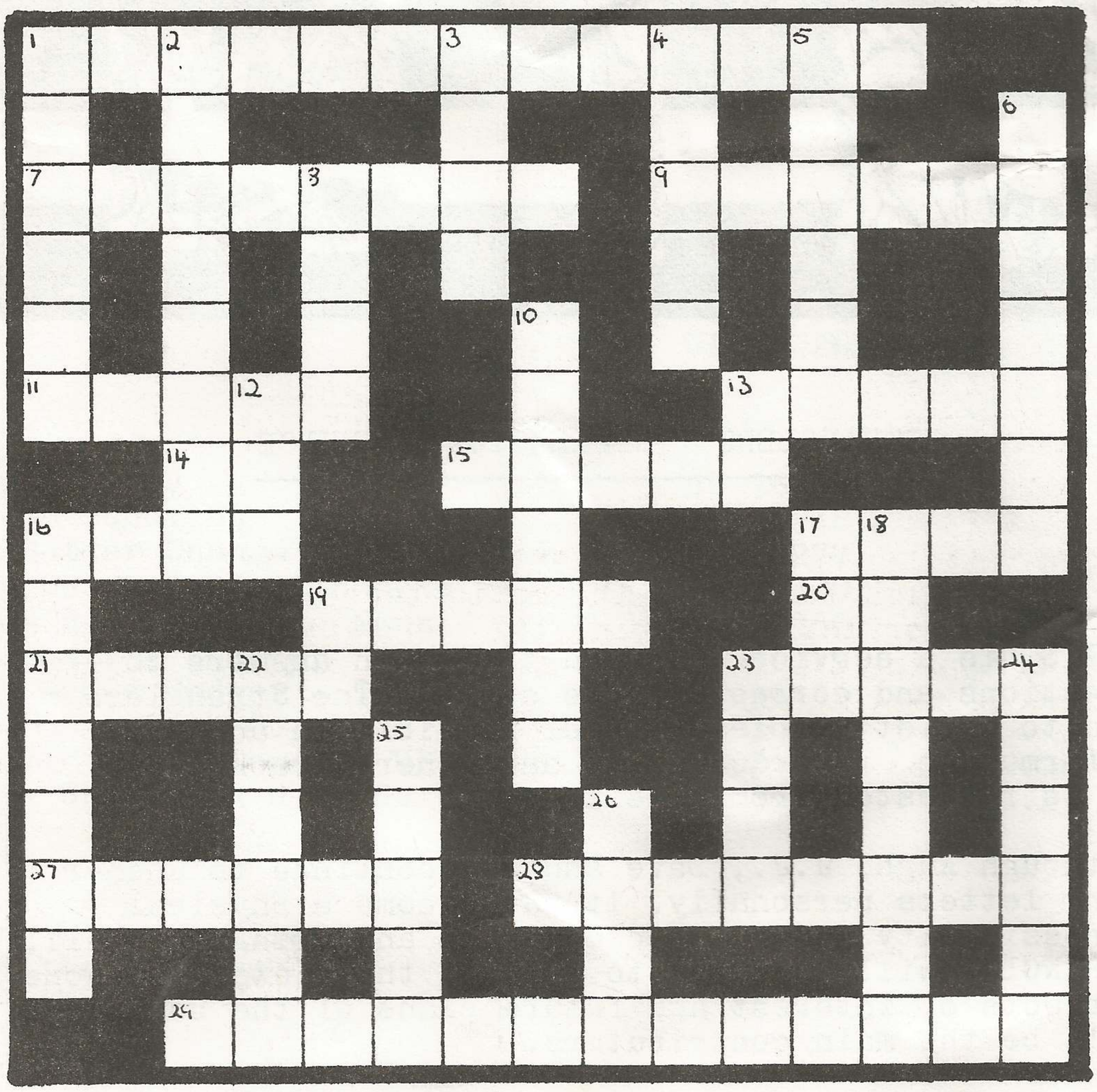
S.I.S. is to commence simultaneously in U.S.A, Europe (Belgium) and Australia, whilst in Japan S.I.S. has been functioning successfully for over a year. Anyone interested in these overseas S.I.S's can be put in touch with them.

We are prepared to accept domestic advertisements free of charge for inclusion in STRANGLED mag but do remember that it is planned to appear every two months.

S.I.S. is not run for profit but by enthusiasts for enthusiasts. In order to avoid wasteful under-or-over production of issues we invite your subscription to STRANGLED which will ensure you receive STRANGLED on release day automatically and allow us to plan the required number of copies.

****
DAVE'S BRAIN TEASER
****

An entire set of Stranglers records, as listed under The Stranglers Discography (22 records), will go to the sender of the first correct solution opened. In addition, there are 10 runner up T-shirt prizes.



CLUES ACROSS

1a Transparent in naked sin - this is the big bang! (7,6.)
7a Crazy door bell in sleazy appartment (8)
9a One of the three "told his mother not to fret" (6)
11a Note an extreme and get the lot (5)
13a Sounds like John to a T - now split (5)
14a Add behold and there you are (2)
15a To get this Yorkshire punk dance you'll need a cuppa and chamber pot. Then disappear..... (1,4.)
16a ..... Or you'll get these best selling discs (4)
17a Marshall these pictures (4)
19a No National Trust work is as high as you can go (5)
20a See 16 down (2)
21a I hear that the missing buzzer is a drummer (5)
23a J.J's fire and the drug squad initially causes family fights (5)
27a Eat up the potato heads on biblical city (6)
28a On the guest list (3,5)
29a Near, Neare, a French painter and you almost say farewell to a French city (2,3,8)

CLUES DOWN

1d Fanciable girl mixes a cake and an untruth (6)

2d Cereal fit's guitarist (8)
3d Tumble after rock (4)
4d Five burnt in the fireplace makes a singing sound (5)
5d Some mangy dogs create ban (6)
6d Once we take the French right out we're real matey with this band (7)
8d Drop in on the asylum - thats simple (4)
10d Help to drink up a drink (7)
12d Hero dies in a pillar (3)
13d Article sounds like a pair, also (2)
16d & 20a O DUB DOGGY - be off my friend (2,5,2.)
17d This time wise man loses bend (3)
18d Circular bend sounds as though it comes from in the shadows (5,3)
19d Knock out turns over - all right ! (2)
22d Bite the Med. Sounds particular (6)
23d Note, cut is'nt a hit (4)
24d Turn towards the S.W. to avoid collision (6)
25d Don't bring Debbie (5)
26d Both Shahs a' leave (2,2.)

****

If you do not wish to remove the brain teaser page, send your answers on a post card or letter marking the top left hand of envelope with "X-WORD" for quick identification. Winners will be announced in future issues as they occur.

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The annual subscription for STRANGLED is £1.80 which includes the cost of postage and packing, and covers six issues. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to: S.I.S.

Address:

S.I.S.
Hibernia House,
Winchester Walk,
London,
S.E.1.

****

"I never forget a face but in your case I'll make an exception".

GROUCHO MARX

****

The following is an extract from an interesting letter received at our offices from Chris, who has recently been to the Soviet Union.

" Dear Mr Edwards,

I was in the Soviet Union for three weeks during November and just wanted to drop you a line and tell you how amazingly received the offerings of the Stranglers were. I've told you before that Russians have a surprisingly good grasp of contemporary Western music courtesy of Third World students, businessmen and students, although the sound this quartet makes is unique to them, and very exciting. It's also not the sort of music they can purloin off Voice of America or Radio Free Europe (which the authorities still block from time to time in spite of this so called detente).

It would be so incredible if they could pay a visit there. My friends took me to see an English group in Minsk, God knows what they were called, they were so awful they couldn't have filled a pub in Oldham on a Saturday night; but they are so Western starved there that this awfully chronic bunch were playing to a crowd of 8,000. Don't you think that if carefully selected lyrics were shown to the Gosconcert people, there might be a chance for the Stranglers to perform ? Of course there will be the petty restrictions and it's understandable if the Stranglers don't want to be subjected to any sort of censorship. I have been at various receptions where the Soviet Ambassador (nikolai lunkov) and their Arts Attache have been giving informal 'addresses' and they have been promising 'forward' looking exchanges of contemporary musicians' (... that is, within their current constraints of the system).

With the Olympic Games approaching, the authorities want to give the impression of 'loosening up', although it's a very paradoxical situation. While Elton John can return from Moscow and boast of listening to Sex Pistols records until 4 in the morning, your average Soviet citizen tunes in very cautiously to Voice of America ... Russian people are actively (VERY actively) discouraged from meeting Western friends.

Whilst I was there, an absolute surfeit of "Girl" t-shirts were being sold on the black market. Many Russians haven't even heard of this group but bought the t-shirts because they were a symbol of the West. The authorities decided that this group were 'anti-Soviet' and any Russian seen wearing one of these t-shirts had it automatically confiscated.

The authorities proudly boast of their theatres, their ballet companies and their cultural achievements, although it's a known fact that only 10% of tickets sold are available to your ordinary Russian-person-in-the-street (the rest going to delegations of tourists, businessmen or Communists from the satellites or one of the other 15 countries comprising the SU, or to Western tourists etc etc).

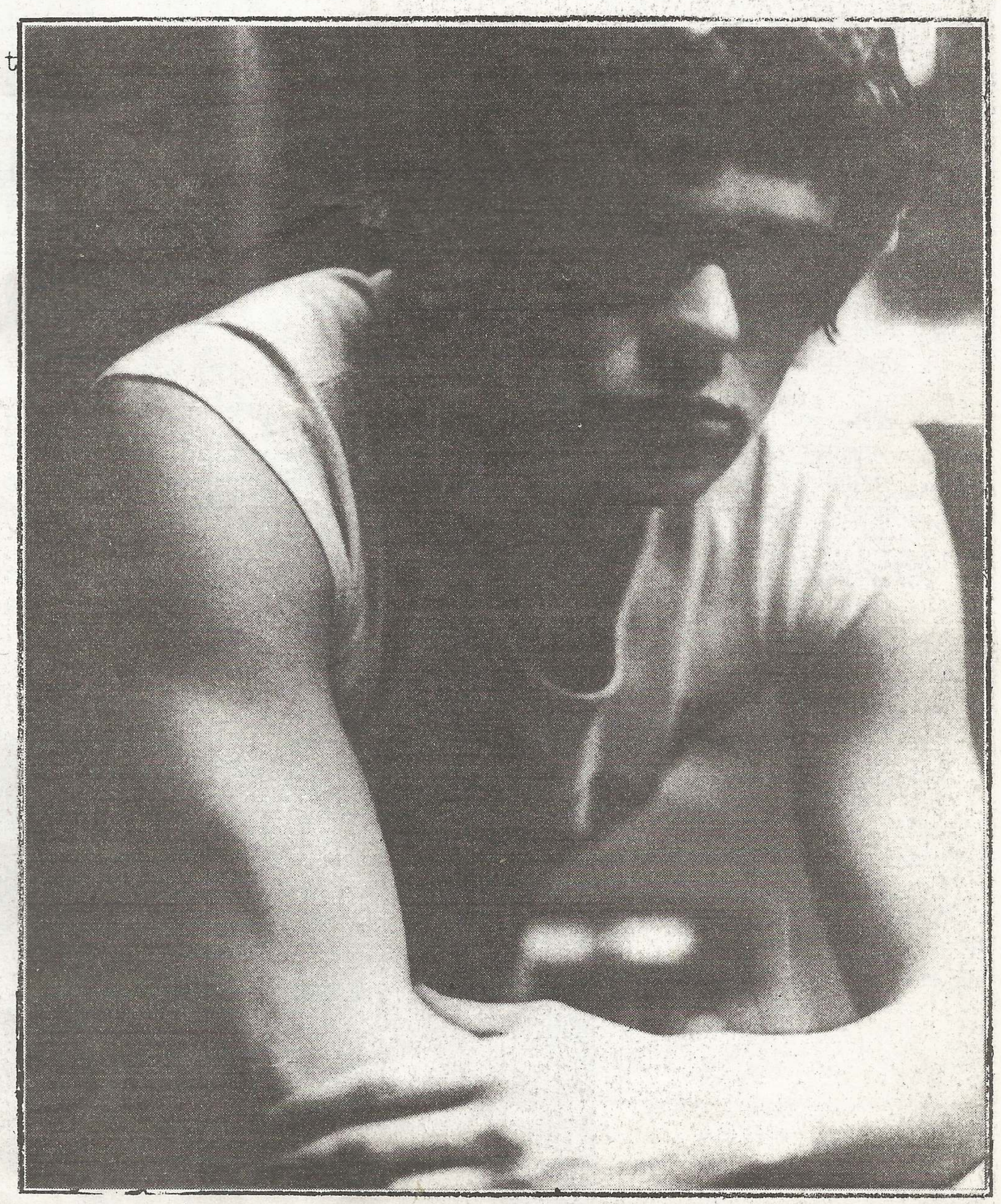
Anway, some friends of mine who study at Lomonosov (Moscow) university, and who are quite blase about Western music (they've been exposed to a lot of it) were thrilled to get their hands on these tapes, they want more of them, lots of information on the Stranglers, they think they're the greatest, etc etc.

I've written to that charming young man, Paul Loasby, and his young lady assistant Carole telling him this and I hope that it may be possible for a tour to be organised one day. ..... "

Chris.

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set I go into the other room and read a book".

GROUCHO MARX.



A reader's article that The Stranglers felt they could identify with :

" I've got to say something. I've spent too long wondering whether or not to write an article for the only decent, honest newspaper out. Well I've seen prices rise and inflation reach its clirax and I've had enough. Society means aggression, poverty and disgust now, the government and the trade unions have seen to that. Anyone out there who has any other statement to make please write up so I can perhaps seek another way to live. All governments have degraded this country to its lowest, its time for a change. We can't see to that, we only have to live here - but something must be done quickly. The E.E.C., and a United States of Europe will solve a few problems but it will not help us to stop falling down a bottomless pit of exhaustion. Governments have stunk.

The young are discarded, abused and trodden on in this country. We have no say, we do not have the ability to rule the country, but we can sure help - ideas don't go a miss. Fuck everybody else, if the governments don't want any help from us and society doesn't want any ideas then fuck them, build a life for yourself, get out and do something, put your ideas into plan, get the ball rolling for God's sake. I don't want anarchy, it would be life with chaos, and England would be no country, I just want a "free" country, a country where ideas are thought about and not disregarded as they are now. Listen to The Stranglers they'll tell you, and they are doing something - our symbol of an isolated fight that is to a degree getting somewhere - they are getting banned from towns - my town - your town - and are still there. Good luck to them. Even the ones that claim they are not are rebels to society, even the "adult" 30 - 50 range. They want things to change and so do we. We're all good missionary rebels with peaceful intentions.

The closest thing that the country's young can get to saying something is to become famous in a band, write lyrics that mean something, write lyrics that incite something or just write lyrics that have got nothing to do with it at all but that show some significance to life in this part of the world. Sod America, Sod all other countries and get on with making our country a decent place to live in, even if we don't take action, think that way and things will start to get better.

Don't label me after this contribution, I'm no commie, no fascist, no nothing. Just me - a person trying to think of someway of making this country a better place to thrive and bring up your kids in. But as The Stranglers say 'Have you got enough time ?' "

L.J. Taylor
Brighton

O D Z A N S O D Z

Congratulations to Tony Giordano of Yonkers, New York who is the first person in the world who has written in explaining that he has not only discovered a morse code message in one of The Stranglers songs but he has correctly deciphered it ! Full marks to Tony and a Stranglers sweat shirt is on it's way to him. I am left wondering whether anyone in Britain has sussed it out yet ? The music critics certainly haven't. A sweat shirt is waiting for you ! (Sorry, but I'm not saying which song is involved).

****

So many letters arrive here requesting Stranglers sheet music that it would be impossible to distribute by mail order. All Stranglers songs are published by April/Albion Music Limited and should be available at all shops that sell sheet music. By all means write to us for sheet music but only in the unlikely event of your local sheet music shop claiming that they can't obtain it for you.

****

At the time of writing, precise details of The Stranglers' plans for 1980 are not finalised. However, by way of a summary of several ideas in various stages of completion we have firstly the proposed tour starting in Italy and going on to Yugoslavia, India, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. It seems that the first dates of such a tour are likely for some time in March. More accurate details will be available in the near future.

Meanwhile, the band is writing new songs in between hassles with the authorities and will be recording before and after the proposed tour, which itself is bound to inspire a whole new dimension for the band. A major British tour this year is unlikely but no doubt a few gigs will eventually emerge.

It is possible that later in the year The Stranglers will embark on a European tour of some sort and there will certainly be more recording.

****

Immediately prior to my occupying the S.I.S., chair there appears to have been a rather large hiccup in the answering of your mail. By the time you read this I will have caught up with the backlog but should you find yourself still waiting for a reply from S.I.S., let me know immediately.

Cheers,

Suze.

Marshall